

FORM B – BUILDING

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
MASSACHUSETTS ARCHIVES BUILDING
220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125



Recorded by Nancy S. Seasholes

Organization Lexington Historical Commission

Date (month / year) March 1998

Assessor's Number	USGS Quad	Area(s)	Form Number
0048000154	Boston N.		674

Town Lexington

Place (neighborhood or village)

Address 29 Sherman St.

Historic Name Justus P. Morse House

Uses: Present Residential

Original Residential

Date of Construction 1902

Source Lexington Valuation lists

Style/Form Queen Anne

Architect/Builder

Exterior Material:

Foundation Fieldstone

Wall/Trim Wood Clapboard/Wood Shingle

Roof Asphalt Shingle

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures

Major Alterations (with dates)

Rear additions (dates unknown)

Condition Good

Moved ☒ no ☐ yes Date

Acreage 0.1 A.

Setting On a side street with late 19th-century houses;
next to a house that is a mirror-image

BUILDING FORM

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION ☐ see continuation sheet

Describe architectural features. Evaluate the characteristics of this building in terms of other buildings within the community.

29 and 31 Sherman St. (MHC #673) were clearly built as a pair—perhaps the only instance in Lexington of paired Queen Anne houses. The houses are almost exact mirror images, but with subtle differences. Both are rectangular with a rear ell, 2½ stories, three-by-three bays, and front-gabled with side chimneys and projecting 2½-story gabled bays facing each other. Both houses are set on fieldstone foundations, clad with wood clapboards and wood shingles, and roofed with asphalt shingles. Both also have a two-story octagonal tower with a peaked roof with flared eaves surmounted by a ball finial, a frieze of rectangular panels, and similar though larger panels under the first-story windows; both houses have a front porch with turned posts and a square-stick frieze; and both have diamond-pattered shingles in the gables. Some finishes are echoes rather than mirrors, however: the sunburst used in the pediment of the front gable at 29 Sherman is used in the side gable at 31 Sherman, and the band of rectangular panels at the base of the front gable at 31 Sherman is seen in the side gable at 29 Sherman. And some original finishes are unique to just one house: the triple window in the front gable and oculus window in the side gable at 29 Sherman; the segmental window head in the front gable at 31 Sherman; the canted one-story rear bay with a frieze of rectangular panels at 29 Sherman. The rear additions and alterations also differ. In the case of 29 Sherman, there is a 1½-story two-by-one bay gabled rear ell with a cross gable on the east elevation, a screen porch on the east elevation, and shed-roofed entries at the rear.

HISTORICAL NARRATIVE ☐ see continuation sheet

Discuss the history of the building. Explain its associations with local (or state) history. Include uses of the building, and the role(s) the owners/occupants played within the community.

29 Sherman St. was built in 1902 by Justus P. Morse. Morse had purchased the lot in September 1901, was assessed in 1902 for just the lot, but in 1903 was also assessed for a house, indicating it had been built the previous year. Morse was the baggage master at the Lexington station and, before building this house, had lived on Fletcher St. as had the Hoveys, who built the twin of this house next door at 31 Sherman St. (MHC #673). Mr. Hovey was an engineer on the railroad and presumably the two men, who must have known each other through work and as neighbors, decided to build adjoining matching houses. It is not known, however, where they acquired the plans. Although the Sherman/Sheridan/Grant Street area was developed as one of rental houses (see Area form G), the Morses apparently lived in this house themselves and were still there in 1922.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES ☐ see continuation sheet

Lexington Directory. 1902–03, 1906, 1908–09, 1913, 1916, 1918, 1922.

Lexington Valuation Lists. 1902–1903.

Middlesex Registry of Deeds. Deeds. Cambridge, MA. 2920: 41.

☐ Recommended for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. *If checked, you must attach a completed National Register Criteria Statement form.*

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
MASSACHUSETTS ARCHIVES BUILDING
220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Town
LEXINGTON

Property Address
29 SHERMAN ST.

Area(s) Form No.

G	674
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HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE:

The paired Queen Anne houses at 29 and 31 Sherman Street were constructed for two sisters – the former Emma and Addie Philbrick of Bedford- and their respective husbands. Addie Philbrick married Justin (Justus?) Morse, an employee on the B & M Railroad on June 2, 1896. The wedding took place at the new home of the bridal pair on Fletcher Avenue. Miss Philbrick was attended by her sister, Miss Emma Philbrick and the best man was Henry (Robert?) Hovey (*Minute-man*, June 5, 1896).

In 1902 the two couples apparently moved from Fletcher Avenue to their newly-constructed, side-by-side houses on Sherman Street.

BIBLIOGRAPHY:

Hudson, Charles. *History of the Town of Lexington*. Cambridge: The Riverside Press Co., 1913, vol. 2, p. 442.
Lexington Directories, various dates.
Lexington Minute-Man, June 5, 1896, June 22, 1900.

Supplement prepared by:
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